

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01747 292158Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-07 COME-00

AID-05 /126 W

-----094899 302005Z /64

R 281940Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1747

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, BB,JA

SUBJ: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HIGHLY CRITICAL OF JAPANESE
CONTRIBUTION TO CARIBBEAN

1. BARBADOS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HENRY FORDE TOLD
A JUNE 27 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT JAPAN HAD EXPLOITED THE
CARIBBEAN FOR YEARS WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING IN RETURN AND HE
ANGRILY PLEDGED THAT CARICOM WOULD SOON BEGIN LOOKING FOR
WAYS TO RESTRICT JAPANESE ACCESS TO THE CARIBBEAN MARKET.
FORDE SAID THE JAPANESE HAD TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 100
MILLION US DOLLARS WORTH OF FISH AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES
FROM THE CARIBBEAN DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND MAINTAINED
A HUGE TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE REGION.

2. FORDE SAID THE JAPANESE HAD NOT BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING AT THE
RECENT MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP IN WASHDC
PREFERING TO CITE THEIR PROVISION OF US\$10 MILLION TO THE CARIB-
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BEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE BILATERAL NATURE OF THEIR AID
PROGRAMS RATHER THAN DISCUSS SERIOUSLY PARTICIPATION IN THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FACILITY. THE MINISTER SAID THE
MONEY JAPAN HAD PROVIDED THE CDB WOULD NEVER
BE DRAWN DOWN BECAUSE OF THE STIFF TERMS ATTACHED AND
THAT THE REFERENCE TO BILATERAL PROGRAMS WAS AN
INADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF WHY JAPAN WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE

IN THE FACILITY.

3. FORDE QUOTED ST. KITTS PERMIER PAUL SOUTHWELL AS
URGING CARICOM TO LOOK AT RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE TRADE
WITH THE REGION AND ANTIGUA DEPUTY PREMIER LESTER BIRD
AS SAYING THAT ANTIGUA WILL MOVE TO RESTEICT JAPANESE
FISHING VESSELS IN ANTIGUAN WATERS.

4. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER REVEALED HE HAD
BEEN INVITED TO JAPAN FOR DISCUSSIONS, BUT HE SAID HE WOULD
NOT ACCEPT THE INVITATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE WAS
CONVINCED THAT THE TRIP WOULD BE TO TALK BUSINESS
RATHER THAN WHAT HE TERMED QUOTE DIPLOMATIC
DECORATION UNQUOTE.
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